

June 11, 1981

Memo to File:

RE: AMAX Specialty Metals  
(formerly NL Industries)  
Rowley Plant  
ACT/045/008  
Tooele County, Utah

A trip to this mining operation was taken by the Division mining staff (Ron Daniels, Jim Smith, Mary Ann Wright, Joe Helfrich, Tom Portle, Sandy Pruitt, Sally Kefer, Gilbert Hunt and Tom Tetting) on June 3, 1981. The purpose of the trip was to acquaint the mining staff with this particular operation, and noncoal mining operations in general.

A briefing of the operation was given by Allen Schultz, plant manager, and a tour of the facility was conducted by three AMAX employees (Ron, Darrell and Ed).

The Rowley Plant, formerly operated by NL Industries, currently produces approximately 30,000 tons of magnesium per year from brine out of the Great Salt Lake. Production is slated to increase to around 49,000 tons per year by 1986. Approximately 30,000 acres of solar evaporation ponds are utilized to collect the brine which is pumped along a ditch system to the plant, 12-14 miles away, and increased to a 7 1/2 percent magnesium concentration through a series of 10 lined ponds.

The facility also mines approximately 50,000 tons per year of oolitic sands during the months of June, July and August. This sand is used with hydrochloric acid to remove the sulfates from the brine. A by-product from this process is gypsum which is essentially waste due to the high iron content. The hydrochloric acid is produced during the process, as is liquid chlorine; the excess being sold.

A zero discharge permit has been issued for total containment of any effluent produced during the process. Grading of the oolitic sands operation occurs each year; however, to date, no revegetation effort has been attempted.

JWS  
JAMES W. SMITH, JR.  
COORDINATOR OF MINED  
LAND DEVELOPMENT

JWS/btm

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